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to complete the scheme by providing the additional buildings and plant required for the synthesis of ammonia and its oxidation to nitric acid and nitrates suitable for the manufacture of explosives and fertilizers. It is understood that the company has acquired a large amount of additional land and that it intends to develop the project on a very large scale. The factory has been re-designed on a peace as distinct from its former war basis, and in many particulars the new plant will represent a substantial advance, both in the ammonia and nitric acid sections, on anything previously used in Germany.

#### SPANISH EDITION OF THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

At the meeting in New Orleans the board of trustee's presented the following report:

The first year of the Spanish edition of *The Journal* has been reasonably satisfactory. Its publication was undertaken with some hesitancy because it meant a venture in an entirely new field. Other periodicals had been published in this country in the Spanish language for circulation in South and Central America, but their publication was undertaken for commercial reasons. Our Spanish edition entered the field solely as a scientific periodical for educative and scientific purposes, and it has been received with approbation. The field was a difficult one to work in the first place because there was not available any physician's directory, or any even fairly reliable list of physicians of standing. However, a list of such physicians has been gradually assembled so that now there is a fairly reliable one at the association headquarters. Included in this list are the physicians of Central and South America and the Philippine Islands.

Another difficulty has been the mailing facilities; these have been anything but satisfactory. Under normal conditions it takes a long time for a communication to reach the South American countries, with the exception of those bordering on the Gulf of Mexico.

At the end of the year the subscription list comprised 2,908 names. To those who appreciate the difficulties and know the conditions that prevailed at the beginning, this must be regarded as quite satisfactory. Roughly, this circulation is as follows: The largest number of subscribers naturally are in Mexico—539; in Cuba next, 530; Argentina,

270; Brazil, 194 (in Brazil Portuguese is the language in general use, therefore it is rather remarkable that this number has been secured there); Chile, 179; Spain, 142; Peru, 101. The rest of the circulation is in Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Salvador, Santo Domingo, Uruguay, Venezuela, Panama and Porto Rico.

It is not to be expected that this journal could be published without a loss for the first few years. As will be remembered, the venture was undertaken at the request of the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation, which agreed to pay half the loss. It should be explained in this connection that the number of copies of each issue printed was 4,500 to 5,500, and that the excess above those subscribed for was sent out as sample copies. Hereafter, of course, there will be fewer sample copies distributed; consequently a less expense with an increased income. During the months of January, February and March the circulation has been steadily increasing. The actual loss to the association to date has been less than \$10,000, which amount promises to be returned with more than gratifying results within the first five-year period of its publication.

#### GRANTS FOR RESEARCH MADE BY THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE Committee on Grants of the association held a meeting in April, and distributed grants amounting to forty-five hundred dollars as given below. The next meeting of the committee will be in connection with the annual meeting of the association in December, when grants for the year 1920 will be made. Applications or suggestions in regard to grants may be made to any member of the committee, and should be received before December 1. The present membership is: Henry Crew, chairman; W. B. Cannon, R. T. Chamberlin, G. N. Lewis, George T. Moore, G. H. Parker, Robert M. Yerkes, and Joel Stebbins, secretary.

Following are the grants for 1919:

##### MATHEMATICS

Three hundred dollars to Professor Solomon Lefschetz, of Kansas University, to assist in the publication of his memoir on algebraic surfaces, which was awarded the Bordin prize of the Paris Academy of Sciences.